

AMBER SIGNED INTO LAW

Earlier this week, Governor Kenny Guinn welcomed a small group of people to his office to witness the signing into law of Assembly Bill 322. Each person in attendance represented a different stage in the long two year process that finally resulted in the development of the Nevada Amber Alert Child Abduction System. At 10:10 A.M. on Tuesday morning, May 6, 2003, with the stroke of a pen, Nevada Amber became the law of the land.

Adrienne Abbott and Bob Fisher represented the NBA at the bill signing. The NBA was the architect and the driving force behind the creation and the development of Nevada Amber.

Criminal Investigator April Lavergne represented the Attorney General's Office. Nevada Amber first began with a single meeting that was held two years ago at the NBA office. At that meeting, Brian Kunzi and Stephanie Parker from the Attorney General's Office forged a partnership with the NBA to develop Nevada Amber. That partnership remains strong today.

The partnership was expanded to include Governor Guinn and Lieutenant Governor Lorraine Hunt. Both have been the strongest supporters of the NBA's efforts to establish Nevada Amber. Both have allowed the NBA the time necessary to achieve five major goals: (1) to strengthen and protect our statewide EAS, (2) to craft an effective Amber plan, (3) to seek the adoption of legislation that would provide immunity for broadcasters, (4) to provide comprehensive training for broadcasters and law enforcement, and (5) to establish an Amber Alert review committee.

Also in attendance at the bill signing this past Tuesday morning was Assembly Speaker Richard Perkins, the author of AB 322; Highway Patrol Chief David Hosmer; and Department of Transportation Director Jeff Fontaine.

Assembly Bill 322 immediately creates a statewide Amber Alert system for the safe return of abducted children that will be fully implemented on July 1.

15 COUNTIES RECEIVE AMBER TRAINING

The NBA in partnership with the Attorney General's Office, the Nevada Department of Public Safety and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department have completed the Amber Alert training of law enforcement personnel representing fifteen of seventeen Nevada counties. Successful training sessions involving over 200 people have already been held in Las Vegas, Reno, Winnemucca and Elko.

The final training session will be held this coming Wednesday afternoon, May 14, 2003 from 1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. at the Excalibur Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

The comprehensive four hour sessions include viewing an Amber Alert training video; and presentations from Brian Kunzi of the Attorney General's Office, Bob Fisher of the Nevada Broadcasters Association, Det. Sgt. Tom Wagner of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and Capt. Marv Davenport of the Nevada Department of Public Safety.

Torrey Sheen, of Sheen Broadcasting Company in Winnemucca thanked Brian, Bob, Tom and Marv for coming to Winnemucca to do the presentation. He also had this to say, "I think that of all the things we do as broadcasters and with our involvement in our communities -- nothing could be more important than this. As someone said in the meeting "I hope we never have to activate this system". I agree, but if we are called upon to do so we all want to make sure that it is done correctly and as quickly as possible."